

Diabetes Community Health Workers (DCHWs): A Piece of the Health Care Puzzle

DPAC's Training and Education Programs Workgroup is pleased to provide you with a presentation focused on describing the use of community health workers in reaching out to people with diabetes. Diabetes community health workers (DCHWs) are either employees or volunteers of programs or projects that strive to improve the health of underserved communities and to increase access to health care and social services in those communities. DCHWs are role models for change; they can disseminate, interpret, and reinforce information in an effort to educate community members. To help people better understand the role of the community health worker, this presentation describes the DCHW role in diabetes care, and the competencies, skills, and training required. The experience of one DCHW project is also included in this presentation.

We hope that you will be able to share this presentation with decision makers within your organization or community, to educate others on the value of working with community health workers to address diabetes and to gain support for developing a program which utilizes DCHWs in your area. The presentation slides, script, and evaluation materials are available for you to download at the DPAC website; visit www.michigan.gov/diabetes and click on DPAC.